40 writers... no rules.
ills, thrills, chills, and
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edited by Clint Catalyst and Michelle Tea

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NEWS

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pills, thrills, chills, and heartache
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Los Angeles, CA—Never at a loss for words, Clint Catalyst, a self-described Southern-fried, sissified, Goth-damaged, punk-spirited, hyper-hyphenated, degenerate author (*Cottonmouth Kisses*), reaches new heights of descriptive power while describing the new anthology he has edited with award-winning author Michelle Tea (*Valencia, Chelsea Whistle.*) "It's a wonderful sampling of oddities," Catalyst says of *Pills, Thrills, Chills, and Heartache: Adventures in the First Person* (Alyson Publications, February 2004,) "like a dangerous carton of chocolates or an unmarked prescription bottle."

Right from the start, Catalyst and Tea break with tradition. *Pills, Thrills, Chills, and Heartache* is neither straight nor gay; it's contributors are both legendary and unknown; and it is neither fiction nor non-fiction. The only requirement for each of these stories is that they be told in the first person. The opportunity for open expression drew a jaw-dropping line-up of contributors from the worlds of writing, music, film, journalism, poetry, and theater. Among the names contributing original, never-before-seen pieces are novelists Dennis Cooper, JT Leroy, Alvin Orloff, Dodie Bellamy and Eileen Myles, music columnist Don Baird, journalists (and novelists) Laurie Stone and Pleasant Gehman, poet horehound stillpoint, filmmaker and musician Jackie Strano, and jack-of-all trade writers such as Trebor Healey, Shawna Kenney, Kevin Killian, Mark Ewert and loads more.

So what will you find? Who will you meet? What stories will you hear? "Through employment of the intimate 'I' point of view," Catalyst explains, "The reader gains insight to the life of the outsider: be it speed junkie, stalker, scat freak, cyber sexualist, 20-year-old sober virgin, beatnik groupie, punk rock shoplifter, naked butoh dancer, Tourette's Syndrome fetishist, LSD-dropping nature fag, national prankster, neo-tech mod boy scenester, gender bender, gloomaphile, or glamazon."

Pills, Thrills, Chills, and Heartache is an anthology of dish and misadventures by some of America's most established and undiscovered literary talent. Unlike anything you have ever read, it is a chronicle of lives lived on the fringe and beyond the margins. Prepare to be startled, amused, moved and awakened.

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Pills, Thrills, Chills, and Heartache: Adventures in the First Person edited by Clint Catalyst and Michelle Tea
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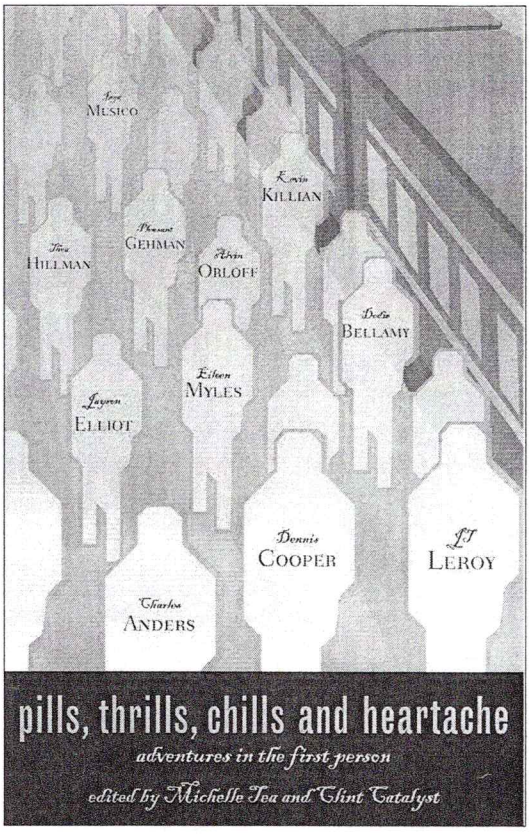
pills, thrills, chills, and heartache

what people are saying...



"If 300 plus pages of beautiful boys, speed freaks in the Castro, girlie-girl orgies, and Allen Ginsburg's dancing boyfriend sounds like your kind of ride, then get on...a wonderfully rich portrait of queer subculture."

—Kirkus Reviews

"Haunting...potent...quick and rough, full of sharply portrayed angst and the palpable fear of not fitting in...these pieces reveal idiosyncratic and often disaffected worldviews; the main characters are struggling, troubled, intelligent observers of life's darker sides...bound to make a splash with readers seeking edgy fiction."

—Publishers Weekly

about the editors

After an extended career in degeneracy, **Clint Catalyst** has settled in the city of smog and stardust, where he has picked up the occasional writing gig from *Swag*, *LA Alternative Press*, *The San Francisco Bay Guardian*, and even *Hustler*, and witnessed the swift sucking noise that accompanied each paycheck as it was absorbed by his insurmountable student loan debt. With a Bachelor of Arts with Honors Distinction in English from Hendrix College and a Master of Arts in Writing from the University of San Francisco, Catalyst has learned that authoring books such as his premier, *Cottonmouth Kisses*, is not just a labor of love. It's a pain in the posterior--but at least it's one he invited there. Mr. Double C accepts suitors online at www.clintcatalyst.com and/or www.purpleglitter.com/clintcatalyst, and is especially fond of punk rock papi chulos and Krispy Kreme donuts, especially when combined.

Michelle Tea wrote *The Passionate Mistakes and Intricate Corruption of One Girl in America*, *Valencia* and *The Chelsea Whistle*. She lives in San Francisco, where she hides in her pink bedroom and hustles writing gigs out of places like the *Guardian*, *Girlfriends* and *On Our Backs*. She loves--like, really loves--beauty products.

Photo by: Robin Perrine
Available electronically as Tiff or Jpg, 300dpi.
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about the writers

- **Charlie Anders** (www.charlie-girl.com) eats more duck feet than you do. She's the publisher of *other* magazine, the magazine for people who defy categories, and the author of *The Lazy Crossdresser*, a how-to manual for slack t-girls. Her writing has appeared in *ZYZZYVA*, *Comet*, *Mad Scientist*, *Strange Horizons*, *Peep Show*, *Best Transgender Erotica*, *Best Bisexual Erotica 1* and 2, and many other magazines and anthologies.
- **Lisa Archer** and her two cats are diehard San Francisco sex radicals, struggling to make a living in the post-dot.com economy. Lisa's fiction appears in *Best Bisexual Women's Erotica*, *Best Fetish Erotica*, *Best Woman's Erotica 2002* (all from Cleis), *5-Minute Erotica* (forthcoming from Running Press), *Mammoth Book of Best New Erotica, Volume 2* (Carroll & Graf), and *Best of the Best Meat Erotica* (Suspect Thoughts), among other publications. She has also starred as Lisa Lixx in *Bend Over Boyfriend 2*, *Slide Bi Me*, and on "Playboy Sexcetera."
- **Cheryl B.** is a writer who has performed her work throughout the U.S. and internationally. Her writing has appeared in numerous publications, most notably: *The Milk of Almonds: Italian-American Women Writers on Food and Culture* (2002, Feminist Press), *The World In Us: Gay and Lesbian Poetry of the Next Wave* (2000, St. Martins Press), and *His Hands, His Tools, His Dress, His Sex: Lesbian Writers on their Fathers* (2001, Harrington Park Press) among many others. Cheryl received a Master's degree form The New School in 2002. A native New Yorker, she lives in Brooklyn with two cats and online at www.motoroilqueen.com.
- **Don Baird** resides in San Francisco, where he has penned a regular column called "Beat This" in the *Bay Times* for over 15 years, bringing rock music criticism to a predominantly gay readership, reassuring queers who live for the devil's music that they are not alone. He furthers this crusade as a DJ, spinning rock music at two popular San Francisco bars. His writing often veers into other areas besides music, including socio-political commentary, sex, high school shootings, amusement park fatalities, personal stories about his family, and serial killers. He proudly embraces a rock and roll lifestyle, punctuated by sex and drugs.
- **Dodie Bellamy** has written a novel, *The Letters of Mina Harker* (1998), a collection of memoirs, *Feminine Hijinx* (1990), and *Real* (1994), an epistolary collaboration on AIDS with the late Sam D'Allesandro. Her latest book, *Cunt-Ups*, a radical feminist revision of the "cut-up" pioneered by William Burroughs and Bryon Gysin, won the 2002 Firecracker Alternative Book Award for Poetry. "Phonezone" is a chapter from her novel-in-progress, *The Fourth Form*.
- **Leo Blackwater** is a writer, composer, and musician based in Los Angeles. He has a B.F.A. in music and a B.A. in mathematics. A major in English has continued to elude him, however, because he doesn't speak Spanish well enough.
- **Cara Bruce** is Editor-in-Chief of Eros Guide (www.eros-guide.com) and Eros Noir (www.eros-noir.com). She is also the editor of *Best Fetish Erotica*, *Best Bisexual Women's Erotica*, and *Viscera*. She owns and runs Venus or Vixen Press (publisher of *Viscera* and *Embraces: Dark Erotica*) and VenusOrVixen.com. She is the coauthor of *The First Year--Hepatitis C* with Lisa Montanarelli. Her short stories have appeared in numerous anthologies including *Best American Erotica 2001*, *Best Women's Erotica 2000-2004*, *Best Lesbian Erotica 2000*, *Mammoth Book Best of the Year Erotica 1 & 2*, *Uniform Sex*, *Starf*ckers*, *The Unmade Bed*, *The Oy of Sex*, *Best S/M Erotica*, and *Best Bondage Erotica*, to name a few. Her writing has been published in many websites, magazines, and newspapers, including Salon.com, *Playgirl*, *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, *While You Were Sleeping*, *On Our Backs*, GettingIt.com and many more. She lives in San Francisco. Check her websites for more information: www.venusorvixen.com and www.carabruce.com.
- **Daniel Cartier** is new to creative writing, having spent most of his life focusing on his dogs, various boyfriends, and crazy music career. His 3 CDs have received unanimous critical praise, and his music is regularly featured on television and film. He dedicates his story to anyone who's willing to keep on playing the game of love, even when the game continually seems to be a losing one.
- After an extended career in degeneracy, **Clint Catalyst** has settled in the city of smog and stardust, where he has picked up the occasional writing gig from *Swag*, *LA Alternative Press*, *The San Francisco Bay Guardian*, and even *Hustler*, and witnessed the swift sucking noise that accompanied each paycheck as it was absorbed by his insurmountable student loan debt. With a Bachelor of Arts with Honors Distinction in English from Hendrix College and a Master of Arts in Writing from the University of San Francisco, Catalyst has learned that authoring books such as his premier, *Cottonmouth Kisses*, is not just a labor of love. It's a pain in the posterior--but at least it's one he invited there. Mr. Double C accepts suitors online at www.clintcatalyst.com and/or www.purpleglitter.com/clintcatalyst, and is especially fond of punk rock papi chulos and Krispy Kreme donuts, especially when combined.

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about the writers

- **Dennis Cooper** is the author of "The George Miles Cycle," a sequence of five interconnected novels that includes *Closer* (1989), *Frisk* (1991), *Try* (1994), *Guide* (1997), and *Period* (2000). The cycle is published by Grove Press and has been translated into 13 languages. His most recent novel is *My Loose Thread* (Canongate, 2002). He is Editor-in-Chief of Little House on the Bowery/Akashic Press, a new line of books by adventurous young fiction writers. He lives in Los Angeles.
- **Jayson Elliot**, an Iowa native, is the editor and publisher of *Permission* magazine. He fell into the dot-com world in 1994 after a rock tour dropped him off in San Francisco, where he funded his writing and publishing habit as a graphic designer. He is now recovering nicely in New York.
- **Mark Ewert** really did do the things he said he did in his piece. In fact, he's writing a whole book about his time spent with Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs, etc., which probably will be called *Beatboy*. Mark is a Capricorn who lives in a turret in a beautiful old Victorian castle in San Francisco. He's co-creator of the cartoon *Piki & Poko*, and he's a total nerd when it comes to Dungeons and Dragons.
- **Amelia G.** is a writer and photographer who has lived all over the world. Her writing has been translated into German, French, and Italian. Her fiction has been selected for *Best American Erotica*, *Best Women's Erotica*, *Best S/M Erotica*, and numerous other anthologies. Amelia G has written for everyone from *Tattoo Savage* to *Playboy*, but she is best known for founding *Blue Blood*, the seminal magazine of counterculture erotica. Amelia currently edits GothicSluts.com online and the *SWAG* rock lifestyle mag in print at 8033 Sunset Blvd # 4500, West Hollywood, CA 90046. Her photography has appeared in venues from *Marquis* and *Gothic Beauty* to *Penthouse* and MTV. She likes pretty boys, pretty girls, sushi, chilled lattes, work, and rock and roll.
- **Pleasant Gehman** is the author of the books *Senorita Sin*, *Princess of Hollywood*, and *Escape From Houdini Mountain* and editor of two editions of *The Underground Guide to Los Angeles*. Her writing appears regularly in the *LA Weekly* and *Los Angeles Magazine* as well as many national and international magazines and literary publications. She is also a painter, belly dancer, singer, and actress. Pleasant is helplessly attracted to bright, sparkly objects and people. Visit Her Royal Highness' website at: www.dikenga.com/plez.
- **Trebor Healey**'s fiction can be found online at the *Blithe House Quarterly* and *Lodestar Quarterly*. Anthologies where his work appears include *Best Gay Erotica 2003*, *The Badboy Book of Erotic Poetry*, *A Day for a Lay, Sex Spoken Here, Between the Cracks, Wilma Loves Bette and Other Hilarious Gay and Lesbian Parodies, M2M* and *Beyond Definition: New Writing from Gay and Lesbian San Francisco*, of which he was co-editor. Trebor also wrote a hit single, "Denny," for Pansy Division. His first novel, *Through It Came Bright Colors* (Haworth Press) will be out in August 2003. Visit www.treborhealey.com.
- **Thea Hillman** is the author of the critically acclaimed *Depending on the Light* (Manic D Press). A poetry slam champion with an M.F.A. in English/Creative Writing, Thea has performed her work at festivals, bookstores, and reading series across the country. She has produced many performance events including "Rated XXY: An Evening of Erotica and Education Benefitting ISNA;" "ForWord Girls" the first inclusive all-girl spoken word festival; and the sold-out "Intercourse: A Sex and Gender Spoken Word Recipe for Revolution" for the National Queer Arts Festival. She is on the Mills College Board of Trustees and Board Chair of the Intersex Society of North America. Visit her website at www.theahillman.com.
- Poet, youth advocate and conceptual artist **Kathe Izzo** (katheizzo@hotmail.com) works with love: childhood, motherhood, sex, and community. The ongoing True Love Project, in which she pledges to freely fall in love with her audience for one day, one at a time, unconditionally and with unmitigated passion, has created a stir throughout the U.S. and Europe. Izzo's poetry, memoirs, and short fiction have been published in numerous journals and anthologies, including *Aroused*, edited by Karen Finley, and *The American Bible of Outlaw Poetry* (Thundersmouth Press).
- **Tara Jepsen** is a writer and actor from San Francisco. Her short film*Fumbling Toward Rock: The Miriam and Helen Story* (Steakhaus Productions), co-written/directed/acted with Beth Lisick, premiered June 2002 at the Frameline Film Festival. She co-hosts San Francisco's longest -running queer open mic, K'vetsh, with Lynn Breedlove. She has traveled extensively with all-girl spoken word circus Sister Spit (1997, 1998, 1999) and appears frequently in the world of festivals: Yoyo-a-Gogo, Ladyfest, Homo-a-Gogo, and Boston's Out on the Edge Theatre Festival. She is currently writing a feature script with Lisick called *Rusty Citation*.
- **Kevin Killian**, born 1952, is a poet, novelist, critic, and playwright. He has written a book of poetry, *Argento Series* (2001), two novels, *Shy* (1989) and *Arctic Summer* (1997), a book of memoirs, *Bedrooms Have Windows* (1989), and three chapbooks, *Desiree* (1986), *Santa* (1995), and *The Kink of Chris Komater*

(1999). His latest collection of stories and memoirs, from Painted Leaf Books, is called *I Cry Like a Baby* (2001). His previous book of stories, *Little Men* (1996) won the PEN Oakland award for fiction. For the San Francisco Poets Theater Killian has written 30 plays, including *Stone Marmalade* (1996, with Leslie Scalapino) and *Often* (2001, with Barbara Guest). His next book will be all about Kylie Minogue.

- **Adam Klein** is the author of *Tiny Ladies*, published in March 2003 by Serpent's Tail Books. He is also the author of *The Medicine Burns*, a Lambda Book Award nominee. He recently contributed to the artist book *SMTWTFS* by Marco Breuer, and was a co-author of the artist monograph on Jerome Caja, *Jerome:After the Pageant*. His work has appeared in *BOMB* magazine and several other anthologies. He is the singer and co-writer for the band Roman Evening.
- **Chris Kraus** is the author of *Aliens & Anorexia, I Love Dick*, and the forthcoming novel, *Torpor*. A book of her art essays, *Video Green: Los Angeles Art and the Triumph of Nothingness*, will be published by Semiotexte/MIT Press in 2004. She teaches writing at the San Francisco Art Institute.
- **Bee Lavender** is a much-married working class cancer survivor and the co-editor of *Breeder: Real Life Stories from a New Generation of Mothers*. She publishes and edits the online version of Hip Mama and is the author of the zine series "A Beautiful Final Tribute." www.hipmama.com
- **Ricky Lee** is a Midwestern native who has lived in San Francisco for the past seven years. She is a writer, video maker, and visual artist. She is also MC Strict Chem in the hip-hop group The End of The World. She wrote and directed the award-winning short feature *Reservoir Dykes*. Her writing is self-described as pathetic realism. It deals with issues of queerness and gender as well as the wonders of manual labor, drinkin', fuckin', and survival.
- **J.T. LeRoy** is the author of the international bestsellers *Sarah* and *The Heart Is Deceitful Above All Things* (which is being made into a film by Asia Argento). His third book will be published soon by Viking. He is part of the rock band Thistle (www.thistlehq.com). He is a massive rock fan and can be heard on the Third Eye Blind album, Out Of the Vein. He wrote the bio for the new Zwan record and has in general sold his soul (what is left of it) for rock-n-roll. Learn more at www.jtleRoy.com.
- **Danny Levesque** has been traveling the country for the past ten years as a writer, performer, and petty thief. He currently resides in Providence, Rhode Island, with his partner in crime and their two doggies. To send money, contact ElLute69@aol.com.
- **Ali Liebegott** currently lives and teaches adults GED and ESL in Providence, Rhode Island. Her poetry and fiction have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including: *The Haight-Ashbury Literary Journal, The Brooklyn Review, Virgin Territory II, Long Shot, Beyond Definition*, and others. In1999 she was a recipient of a Poetry Fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts. She toured with the infamous Sister Spit Ramblin' Road Show in 1997 and 1999. She has completed three books: *The IHOP Papers, The Beautifully Worthless*, and *The Crumb People*. But more important than all of this--she loves feeding the ducks very much.
- **Inga M. Muscio** is the author of *Cunt: A Declaration of Independence*. She is presently working on her new book, *Autobiography of a Blue-Eyed Devil: My Life and Times in a Racist, Imperialist Society*, which will be published in 2004. Her website is ingalagringa.com
- **Eileen Myles** is a poet who lives in New York and a novelist who teaches fiction at UCSD. She's working on a novel called *The Inferno* and is just finishing a libretto called *Hell*.
- **Alvin Orloff** began his writing career as a lyricist for The Blowdryers, a San Francisco punk rock band of the late 1970s. After producing several zines, he co-wrote *The Unsinkable Bambi Lake* (Manic D Press, 1996), a theatrical memoir with a transsexual twist. His first novel, *I Married an Earthling* (Manic D Press, 2000), a social satire in the guise of a sci-fi send up, was called "unique" and "a delight" by *Publishers Weekly*. He is currently promoting Spectacularism, a new literary movement, and working on his second, third, and fourth novels.
- **Pauley P.** is a homo...sapien who writes things and talks too much. Find out more at www.pauleyp.com.
- **Loren Rhoads** is editor of the annual nonfiction journal *Morbid Curiosity*. Her travel writing has appeared on Gothic.Net and Triplit, in magazines like *Tail Spins* and *Trips*, and in two of the *Travelers' Tales* books. Her first book of essays, *Jet Lag and Other Blessings*, is available from Agua Bonita Press in San Francisco.
- In her youth, **Jan Richman** attended charm school in the basement of Montgomery Ward's, survived a scorpion bite between her third and fourth toes, and performed the hula for Jimmy Durante. Currently, she

lives in a fabulous, rent-controlled apartment in San Francisco, where she's desperately trying to finish a novel about Tourette's Syndrome and roller coasters.

- **Steven Salardino**'s writings have appeared in zines, journals, and exhibition catalogs such as *Skinny Chest, The Mississippi Review*, and *Blind Date* and his artwork has been recently exhibited at Todd Hughes Fine Arts and the Rosamund Felson Gallery. Currently he plays ukulele in the Los Angeles band Ukefink with fellow artists Jason Holley, Eddy French, and his brother David Salardino.
- After surviving the late 90's road trips with all-girl spoken word road riot Sister Spit, **Sara Seinberg** packed up Gus the Wonderdog and moved to New England. She lives in Boston, where she takes some photos, writes some stories, and gets some education.
- **Anna Joy Springer** is a doddering lesbian schoolteacher who wears comfortable shoes and has a yippy little dog.
- **Jackie Strano** grew up in taverns, bowling alleys, and roadhouses. She won her first microphone singing "Stop Draggin' My Heart Around." She finally stopped chasing straight girls in Sacramento. Now you can find her in front of and behind the camera showing the world what real dyke sex looks like. Her company, S.I.R. Video, stands for Sex Indulgence & Rock n Roll. Strano sings with the bands The Hail Marys and The Servants and is still madly in love after a decade with the finest piece of American femme tail, Shar Rednour.
- **horehound stillpoint** has been called a poet, a pervert, a savior to excess, and a scribe of tricks. His work can be found in *Poetry Slam, Poetry Nation, Out in the Castro, Tough Guys, Of the Flesh, Rough Stuff, Sex Spoken Here*, and *Quickies*. His own mini-book of poetry, *Reincarnation Woes*, is published by Kapow! Books press. Online, poems of his can be found at LodestarQuarterly.com, SuspectThoughts.com and NarcolepsyArms.com, plus an old essay or two might still be floating somewhere within Salon.com under the name Greg Nott.
- **Laurie Stone** is author of the novel *Starting with Serge* (Doubleday, 1990), the memoir collection *Close to the Bone* (Grove, 1997), and *Laughing in the Dark* (Ecco, 1997), a collection of her writing on comic performance. A longtime writer for *The Village Voice* (24 years), she has been theater critic for *The Nation*, critic-at-large on National Public Radio's "Fresh Air," a member of the Bat Theater Company, and a regular writer for *Ms., New York Woman*, and *Viva*. She has received grants from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Kittredge Foundation, and the MacDowell Colony, Poets & Writers, and in 1996 she won the Nona Balakian prize in excellence in criticism from the National Book Critics Circle. She has published numerous memoir essays in such publications as *Ms., TriQuarterly, Threepenny Review*, and *Creative Nonfiction*. Her current short fiction appears in the anthologies *Full Frontal Fiction* (Crown, 2000) and *Money, Honey* (Deutscher Tashenbuch Verlag, 2000), and her reviews can be seen in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and *Newsday*. She has given readings in dozens of venues, including the 92nd Street Y, Dixon Place, the Poetry Project, Barnes & Noble, KGB, the National Arts Club, and the New School. She has served as Writer-in Residence at the Pratt Institute and at Old Dominion University and as Journalist-in-Residence at Thurber House. She has been a member of the faculty of Antioch University's Masters in Creative Writing Program, taught in the Graduate Theater Department of Sarah Lawrence, been a member of the faculty at Ohio State University, and taught at the Paris Writers' Workshop. She has had short residencies and given workshops at many other universities, including Cal Arts, Trinity College, the University of North Texas, ArtCenter in Pasadena, Mills College, Indiana University, University of Connecticut, and School of the Arts at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1993 and 2001 she received grants from the New York Foundation for the Arts in the category of Nonfiction Literature. She serves on the Board of the National Book Critics Circle, and this year she serves on the faculty of Fordham University as well as on the faculties of the graduate creative writing programs at the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast Writers' Conference and Fairleigh Dickinson University.
- **Michelle Tea** wrote *The Passionate Mistakes and Intricate Corruption of One Girl in America, Valencia* and *The Chelsea Whistle*. She lives in San Francisco, where she hides in her pink bedroom and hustles writing gigs out of places like the *Guardian, Girlfriends* and *On Our Backs*. She loves--like, really loves--beauty products.